(b) if so, whether any progress has been made in this regard, and

(c) whether Government propose to exercise overall control over the type of research to be carried on in this Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir A meeting of the Ministerial Level Plenipotentiary Committee under the auspices of the UNIDO decided to set up the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in two components, one in New Delhi, India and the other in Trieste, Italy The New Delhi component would be set up on the basis of the Indian offer made at that meeting. Accordingly suitable laboratory facilities would be built and provided by Govt. of India Interim laboratory facilities are also to be provided in the meantime. Activities in this regard are likely to be commenced by UNIDO/ICGEB after the formal agreement is signed between the Government of India and UNIDO on the basic terms and conditions governing the UNIDO Project envisaged by the interim programme for the ICGEB.

(c) Since the ICGEB is an international institution, the question of any single country having overall control over the type of research to be carried on in this Centre does not arise.

Impact of the Lok Adalats on the disposal of Court cases

†290 SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the impact of Lok Adalats on the speedy disposal of pending cases and in the clearing of arrears of court cases; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give the Lok Adalats a definite shape by holding regular Lok Adalats frequently to clear the pending arrears of court cases?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) No formal assessment of the impact of Lok Adalats on the speedy disposal of pending cases and in the clearing of arrears of court cases has been made by the Central Government. However, from the reports compiled by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes on the basis of reports from the various State Legal Aid and Advice Boards, it is evident that Lok Adalats have gained considerable popularity and that they have been instrumental in the quick disposal of cases.

As per information available with the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes, so far 1388 Lok Adalats have been organised at which over 8,28,870 cases have been settled.

(b) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (39 of 1987) places the Lok Adalats on a statutory footing. Upon the entry into force of this Act, Lok Adalats will be organised as required by the Act.

Guidelines for appointments of Judges

*291 SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the item 'Judges shuffling the Pack' in India Today of November 15, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the guidelines for appointing the Chief Justices and the Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts;

(c) whether these guidelines were violated in recent appointments; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR)· (a) The Government has seen the article which appeared in "India Today" of November 15, 1987 under the caption "Shuffling the Pack".

(b) to (d) Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court are made in accordance with the provisions of article 124 of the Constitution. Appointments and Transfers of Judges of High Courts are made in accordance with the provisions of articles 217 and 222 of the Constitution respectively.

The Government of India have adopted the policy of having Chief Justices of High Courts from outside: the guidelines for implementing this policy are contained in the Press Note dated 28-1-83, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House (*See below*) It is not correct to state that the recent appointments and transfers have been made in violation of the Constitutional provisions or the guidelines

PRESS NOTE—Dated 28-1-1983

Pursuant to persistent demand from responsible bodies, the Government have, after considering various aspects of the matter and after consulting the Chief Justice of India, decided to adopt a policy of having Chief Justices of all High Courts from outside and to keep in view certain broad guidelines when implementing this policy. These guidelines are as follows —

(i) For purposes of elevation as Chief Justices the *inter se* seniority of puisne Judges will be reckoned on the basis of their seniority in their own High Courts and, subject to suitability, they will be considered for appointment as Chief Justices in other High Courts when their turn would normally have come for being considered for such appointments in their own High Courts

(ii) A Chief Justice who has only one year or less to retire may not be transferred to another High Court.

(iii) A puisne Judge in a High Court who has one year or less to retire when his turn for being considered for elevation as Chief Justice arrives may, subject to suitability, be considered for appointment as Chief Justice in his own High Court if a vacancy is to occur in the office of the Chief Justice in that High Court during that period.

2. While implementing the aforesaid policy the appointments/transfers shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Article 217 or Article 222 of the Constitution, as the case may be.

Development of Women in the SAARC Countries

*292. SHRI V NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAARC Summit which was recently held in Kathmandu focussed its attention on the political, geographical social and cultural barriers in the way of development of the women folk in the SAARC countries· and

(b) what were the suggestions made and adopted to improve the condition of rural women in these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K NATWAR SINGH)· (a) SAARC member countries have attached great importance to the role of women in development and have established a Technical Committee for this purpose Currently, this Technical Committee is chaired by India and the report of its third meeting was considered at the Ninth Session of the Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries held recently in Kathmandu, proceeding the Third SAARC Summit.